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CONSUMER TIME

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WHAT ABOUT TAXES?

NETWORK: NBC

DATE: September 4, 1943

ORIGIN: WRC

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(Produced by the Food Distribution Administration of the War Food Administration, this script is for reference only and may not be broadcast without special permission. The title CONSUMER TIME is restricted to network broadcast of this program--presented for more than ten years in the interest of consumers.)

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1. SOUND: CASH REGISTER RINGS TWICE--MONEY IN THE TILL
2. MAN: This is CONSUMER TIME.
3. SOUND: CASH REGISTER
4. WOMAN: That's your money, buying a living in wartime.
5. SOUND: CASH REGISTER
6. MAN: That's your money buying food.
7. WOMAN: It's your money buying clothes.
8. SOUND: CASH REGISTER...CLOSE DRAWER.
9. MAN: Yes, this is CONSUMER TIME, reminding you today that "taxes help smash the Axis." On Wednesday, September 15, a declaration of estimated income tax is due from 15,000,000 taxpayers. It's another step in the 'pay-as-you-go" plan of taxation. It affects your dollars. CONSUMER TIME will try to answer some of your tax questions with no less an authority than the Deputy Commissioner of Internal Revenue, Mr. Timothy C. Mooney. Johnny, you've already met him--- but I want Mrs. Wilson to meet our special guest for today, Mr. Timothy C. Mooney, Deputy Commissioner of Internal Revenue. Mrs. Wilson, Mr. Mooney--the man who can answer your tax questions.
10. AD LIB: How do you do.

11. WILSON: Mr. Mooney, just what is this tax form I have to make out by September 15?
12. MOONEY: If you have to file one, it's a form called a Declaration of Estimated Income and Victory Tax. It's a major step in putting us taxpayers on a pay-as-you-go basis.
13. WILSON: You said, "if I have to file one".....
14. MOONEY: Yes, Mrs. Wilson. Not every taxpayer will have to file. However, about 15,000,000 will.
15. JOHN: I wonder, Mr. Mooney, whether you'd tell who does have to make out one of these declarations.
16. MOONEY: Certainly, Johnny. First, you probably have to make out this form if you expect your wages, subject to withholding, this year to amount to more than \$2700, if single, or \$3500 for a married couple---or if your wages exceeded those amounts last year.
17. JOHN: I'll be filling out one.
18. MOONEY: Second, you file, if your expected income--from sources other than wages subject to withholding amounts to more than \$100 this year and your income last year required you to send in an income tax return--or if you expect it to be sufficient this year to require filling a return.
19. WILSON: My husband and I are going to have to make out one.
20. MOONEY: Third, you file if your 1943 wages, subject to withholding will be less than such wages in 1942--and you filed a return in 1942.
21. WILSON: Mr. Mooney, my father's an attorney and it is rather difficult for him to estimate, by September 15, just what his income for the year will be.

22. MOONEY: The law provides for that. He can amend his declaration, made on September 15---on December 15---when he can probably make a very close estimate.
23. JOHNNY: Suppose, even then, the tax estimate was inaccurate?
24. MOONEY: If it wasn't more than 20 percent inaccurate, it could be adjusted on March 15, 1944. There's a penalty for under-estimating the tax more than 20 percent.
25. JOHNNY: Does that apply to everybody?
26. MOONEY: There are some exceptions. The most important exception comes in the case of farmers. They don't have to file their first estimates until December 15---if they wish. And, instead of a 20 percent leeway in estimating, they are allowed a 33 1/3 percent leeway before the penalty. That's because of the uncertain nature of farming operations.
27. WILSON: You know, Mr. Mooney, I'm not very good at figures---and making out forms.
28. MOONEY: I don't believe you have to worry much over making out this one Mrs. Wilson.
29. JOHNNY: Do we have to pay anything on September 15th?
30. MOONEY: Assuming that after you've filled out the form, you find that some amount of tax money is due to the Government, you will have to pay at least one-half of that amount on September 15---and the balance on December 15th.
31. WILSON: It seems to me that special consideration should be given to persons in the armed services.
32. MOONEY: Nearly everyone feels the same way about that and Congress did make special provisions in the law for persons in the armed forces of the United States---or the United Nations. The law provides that compensation of such persons---not exceeding \$1500---is excluded from gross income and is exempt from tax.

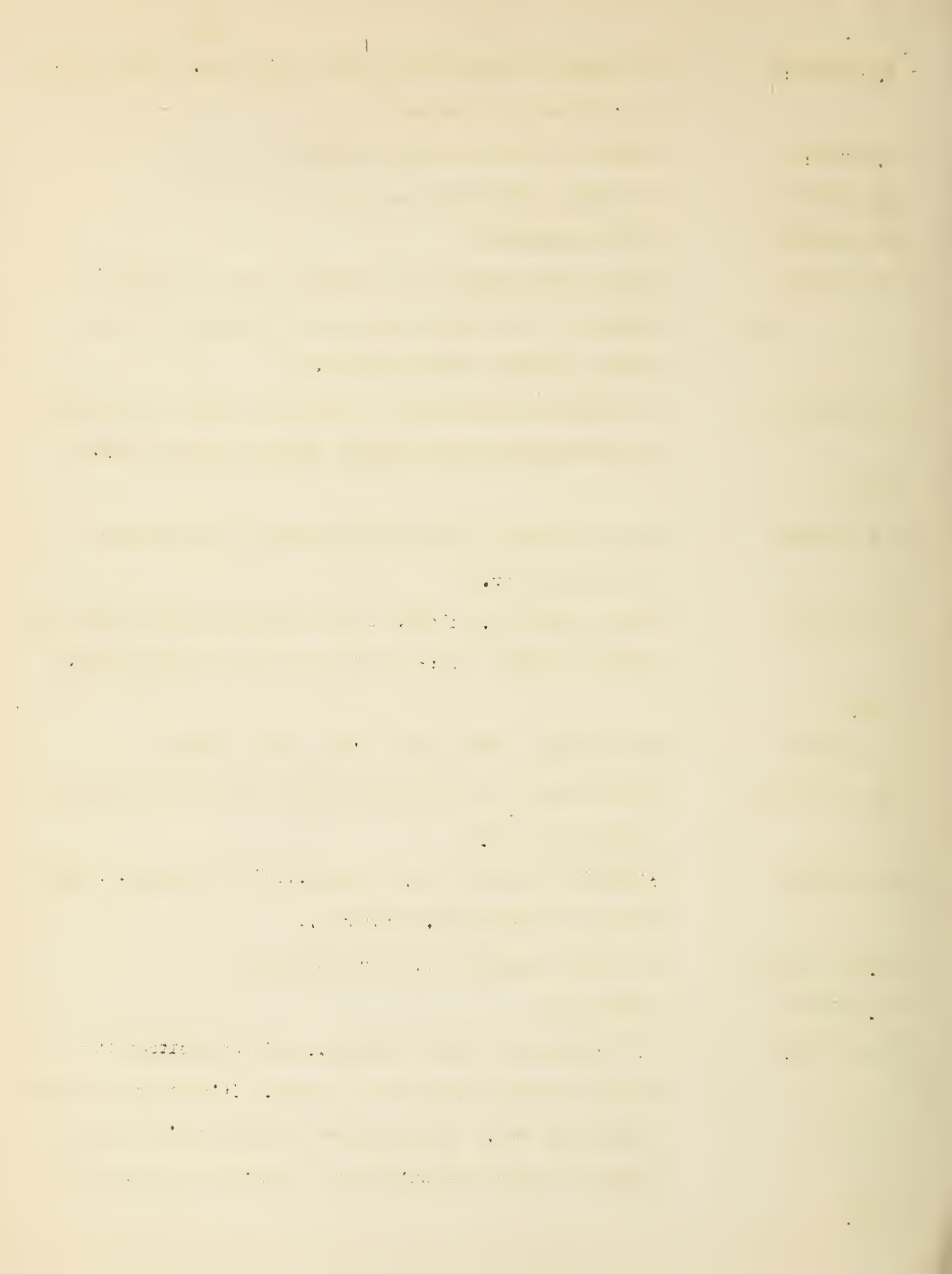
33. WILSON: Does that apply to WACS and WAVES and SPARS as well as to the men?
34. MOONEY: It certainly does.
35. WILSON: Mr. Mooney, I'm still a little worried about filling out my form.
36. MOONEY: Any Internal Revenue collection office in the United States will help you in filling it out.
37. WILSON: I think I'll visit the local office this afternoon.
38. MOONEY: I'll tell you what I'll do, Mrs. Wilson...you already know Mr. Randolph...the gentleman who came here with me.
39. WILSON: Yes, I do.
40. MOONEY: Well, Mr. Randolph is one of our men who helps taxpayers fill out their forms. Now, if there's somebody in the studio who doesn't mind making some of his financial affairs public—we'll have Mr. Randolph help him make out his declaration.
41. WILSON: That's fine if--if someone doesn't mind volunteering.
42. KING: I don't mind, Mrs. Wilson. I make a wage that's no secret.
43. WILSON: Good! Mr. Mooney, this is Mr. Barry King.
44. Mooney: Glad to meet you, Mr. King. Mr. Randolph—Mr. King.
45. AD LIB: How do you do.
46. RANDOLPH: (GOING AWAY) Mr. King, suppose you and I just take this work sheet and sit at this desk.
47. KING: (ALSO GOING AWAY) All right, Mr. Randolph.
- PAUSE:
48. RANDOLPH: (RUSTLING PAPER) (VOICE UP) Now what will be you family's estimated income for 1943?
49. KING: Well, just my salary. I make \$75 a week—\$3900 a year.
50. RANDOLPH: Are you married or single?

51. KING: Oh, married--and we have the cutest 8 year old daughter you ever saw. That's my family.
52. RANDOLPH: Then, on line 2 we deduct \$1730. That's subtracted from the income--leaving \$2170.
53. KING: I'm right with you, so far.
54. RANDOLPH: Now let's take a look at the table on the bottom of this work sheet and find \$2170. Here it is.
55. KING: Yes, and beside it, it says, the amount to be entered on line 4 is \$368.
56. RANDOLPH: And on line 5, we enter your income again, less the \$624 Victory tax exemption.
57. KING: I'm still right with you, Mr. Randolph.
58. RANDOLPH: Now we take 3 percent of that.
59. KING: Three percent of \$3276. Let's see, that's...it's about \$98.
60. RANDOLPH: We add that to the \$368 and come out with \$466.
61. KING: Is that what I have to pay?
62. RANDOLPH: Not quite so fast, Mr. King. Let's turn the page.
63. KING: Fine.
64. RANDOLPH: Now here's your copy of the Declaration. On line 1 we enter the \$466. Have you estimated how much Victory and withholding tax will be taken as payroll deductions for the entire year 1943?
65. KING: Yes, I figured that out about a week ago. It adds up to \$334.
66. RANDOLPH: And \$334 from \$466.
67. KING: That leaves \$132. It says that's my estimated tax.
68. RANDOLPH: Hold on. What have been your total Federal income tax payments this year on your 1942 income?

69. KING: Well, I've paid \$128.
70. RANDOLPH: We deduct that from your estimated tax.
71. KING: That leaves a balance of \$4.
72. RANDOLPH: And that's what you must pay—at least half of it by September 15 and the balance by December 15.
73. KING: Four dollars is all I have to pay?
74. RANDOLPH: That's right—with the facts as you've stated them.
75. KING: Say, that's wonderful—and thank you Mr. Randolph and Mr. Mooney. I've been dreading this.
76. MOONEY: Glad to help, Mr. King.
77. WILSON: Mr. Mooney, I've heard it said, frequently, that taxes represent the ideal way to meet the cost of this war.
78. MOONEY: Well, Mrs. Wilson—taxes are the cheapest way, because they require no additional money for interest or retirement—and they're a fair way because they permit the financial burden of the war to be distributed on the basis of the ability to pay.
79. WILSON: Why, then, don't we raise the entire cost of the war through taxes?
80. MOONEY: To do so would create impossible burdens on some groups, despite all efforts to apportion the tax load fairly. That's why we need both war bonds and taxes.
81. WILSON: All of us give a good deal of thought now to the things our taxes buy.
82. MOONEY: Yes, we think in terms of ships and guns, bombers and tanks, munitions and supplies and pay for our armed forces.
83. WILSON: Yes, they're all a part of taxes—an important part. But Mr. Mooney, I believe we women see the things which our taxes provide in a somewhat different light.

84. MOONEY: Just what do you refer to, Mrs. Wilson?
85. WILSON: Well, first, our taxes make possible simple...but mighty... things. Things like this...
- PAUSE:
86. SOUND: KNIVES, FORKS, SPOONS AND DISHES--IT'S DINNER TIME.
87. GEORGE: Margaret, that's what I call a good dinner.
88. MARGARET: Thank you, George.
89. RICHARD: Mother, could I have some more potatoes and beets, please?
90. MARGARET: You certainly can, Richard, all you want...so you'll be big and strong.
91. RICHARD: Like Daddy?
92. MARGARET: Just like daddy.
93. GEORGE: It does my heart good to see that youngster put away that food.
94. MARGARET: Mine too, George....And to know that there is food (FADE) and shelter for us and our children....
- PAUSE:
95. MOONEY: You mean, Mrs. Wilson, that taxes can help make possible Freedom From Want?
96. WILSON: Yes, Mr. Mooney...and going farther with this same family... taxes make this possible.
- PAUSE:
97. SOUND: HUM OF AIRPLANE MOTORS--DOWN AND OUT FOR DIALOGUE.
98. MARGARET: Richard ought to be happy now, George. He's been begging me for weeks to bring him out to the airport.
99. GEORGE: Natural enough for a kid to like airplanes, Margaret.
100. RICHARD: Gee, Daddy, look at that one--it's big as anything.
101. SOUND: MOTOR ROAR UP BRIEFLY AND OUT.
102. GEORGE: Yes, son. That's a clipper...just coming in from Brazil.

103. RICHARD: Oh, mother...daddy, look at those little ones. When I grow up, I'm going to have one.
104. SOUND: COUPLE OF AIRPLANE MOTORS, BRIEFLY.
105. MARGARET: Certainly, you'll have one, son.
106. RICHARD: I love airplanes.
107. GEORGE: They're great things, son, carrying people and mail and freight. Not so long ago....a plane meant, to too many people, trouble, terror and death.
108. RICHARD: Aw, daddy, I'm not afraid. You told me never to be afraid of anything didn't you? (FADE) Didn't you, now, Daddy?
- PAUSE:
109. WILSON: Yes, Mr. Mooney, I want my tax dollars to help provide Freedom From Fear.
110. MOONEY: They do that, Mrs. Wilson. And returning again to that same family...(FADE) your taxes also help make this possible.
- PAUSE:
111. SOUND: CROWD NOISES, VOICE, ETC. IT'S A TOWN MEETING.
112. MARGARET: (LOW) George, are you really going to get up and speak out against the mayor?
113. GEORGE: (ALSO LOW) You bet, I am, Margaret...(UP) Right now. (CALLING) Mr. Chairman, Mr. Chairman...
114. CHAIRMAN: The chair recognizes Mr. George Ridgley.
115. SOUND: GAVEL RAPS.
116. GEORGE: Mr. Chairman and fellow citizens...This proposition the mayor is trying to put over is unjust. It's wrong and it's bad for our town. When you know the facts you'll vote against it (FADE) and you'll vote against the mayor, too.
- PAUSE:



117. WILSON: Mr. Mooney, I want my tax dollars to help preserve the right of a man to speak out what he believes. I want Freedom of Speech.

118. MOONEY: That's a mighty important freedom.

119. WILSON: And Mr. Mooney, perhaps above all, this is what I want to insure with the money I pay for taxes...

PAUSE:

120. RICHARD: Mother, mother, can I....

121. MARGARET: (LOW) Quiet, now, Richard.

122. MINISTER: Friends, for our reading this Sunday, I have chosen verses one to six of the 23rd chapter of Psalms...

The Lord is my shepherd. I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his Name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of Death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me: Thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: Thou anointest my head with oil: my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life (FADE) and I will dwell in the House of the Lord forever.

PAUSE:

123. WILSON: That Freedom—Freedom of Religion—is one that I want my children—and their children to have forever...

124. MOONEY: Mrs. Wilson, the Four Freedoms—Freedom From Want, From Fear, Freedom of Speech and of Worship—are the essence of this war. And taxes are the sinews of war.
125. WILSON: Well, thank you, Mr. Mooney, for being with us today.
126. MOONEY: I'm glad I could be here, Mrs. Wilson.
127. WILSON: Johnny, I hope you have your declaration of estimated income filled out.
128. JOHN: Just about, Mrs. Wilson, but right now, I want to call your attention to a grand job being done on the Home Front Pledge Campaign.
129. WILSON: The campaign where we pledge to pay no more than ceiling prices—to accept no rationed goods without giving up ration stamps?
130. JOHN: Yes—and agricultural Walton County—in central Georgia has really done a wonderful job in that campaign. The town of Monroe is the county seat and business leaders, housewives, block leaders, ministers and all the folks in the county have pitched in to make this drive a real help in stabilizing—or lowering the cost of living. My hat's off to them.
131. WILSON: I think that's great, Johnny. Another big thing that makes me proud to be an American is the way that American labor—all over the Nation—will be producing this Labor Day—instead of enjoying our customary holiday.
132. JOHN: Yes, American Labor is producing for attack—and the war materials produced this coming Monday, Labor Day—are one more contribution to final victory.
133. WILSON: And rationing is another contribution that all of us help make. What ration stamps are good now, Johnny?

134. JOHN: In Book One, Coupon 18 is good for a pair of shoes through October 31. Coupon 14 is good for 5 pounds of sugar and Coupons 15 and 16 are each good for 5 pounds of sugar---for canning purposes only---through October 31.
135. WILSON: And the red stamps?
136. JOHN: Red stamps X and Y are now good---and remain so through October 2.
137. WILSON: And the blue stamps---for canned or frozen fruits and vegetables?
138. JOHN: Stamps R, S and T are good through September 20 and blue stamps U, V and W are also good now---and through October 20.
139. WILSON: Thank you Johnny---and it's been mighty nice being here with you these two weeks. I hope you've been working ahead so that when Mrs. Freyman returns next week you'll be ready for her.
140. JOHN: I've been working all right, on the case...of milk. It's quite a case.
141. WILSON: I'll be listening for you---next week on CONSUMER TIME.

142. ANNOUNCER:

As an extra special help in meeting wartime expenditure problems, CONSUMER TIME, has arranged that the first five thousand listeners who request it, can obtain, free of charge, a year's subscription to the Consumer Guide...an interesting, practical, up-to-the-minute monthly magazine... which helps you save your dollars and spend them wisely. Usually, a year's subscription costs 50 cents. Consumer Guide is a magazine that's chock-full of down-to-earth facts and real help...well written and well illustrated. If you would like to have a year's subscription--ABSOLUTELY FREE--write today to CONSUMER TIME, War Food Administration, Washington (25) D. C., and say you want the Consumer Guide...at no cost. Be sure to include your name, address and radio station, when you write.

Heard on today's program were....

and Mr. Timothy C. Mooney, Deputy Commissioner of Internal Revenue.

Script by Granville Dickey.

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